

The Mighty 821

Chapter 821: Crystal White Trajectory

After pondering the issue of his appearance, Liszt immediately began to contemplate the integration training with the Formless Dragon.

Unlike the Elemental Dragon, the Formless Dragon, though capable of invisibility by hiding within the boundaries of matter, cannot undergo elementalization to merge with Liszt's body, rendering many of the skills suitable for Leo ineffective for the Formless Dragon. Moreover, its Dragon Breath took the form of a white mist composed of Space Magic Power.

Wherever the white mist passed, it could shatter any material, a powerful attack move.

Clearly, one couldn't use this type of white mist Dragon Breath for the Dragon Breath Tempering.

There wasn't much to say about Dragon Force Focus, a basic skill all Dragon Knights knew, which channeled the dragon's strength into a concentrated beam, no longer dispersed. The Formless Dragon was also capable of learning Dragon Heart Electrical Signals, but it needed to understand the patterns involved before it could communicate with Liszt across the void.

Dragon Blood Infection was a given; Banpo Cattle and Estuary Pigs on Black Horse Island were all masterpieces of the Formless Dragon's infection.

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Dragon Knight Resonance was even more of a basic operation, without question.

The current issue was with the combination of Liszt's practiced Dou Qi Secrets and the Formless Dragon, where some problems had arisen. Implementations like "Spiral Rotation," "Breath Decay," and "The Eye of Magic" proved difficult to perform with the Formless Dragon. The auxiliary effects of Spiral Rotation and Breath Decay were weak and could be disregarded.

But the Eye of Magic was Liszt's signature skill; he absolutely needed to achieve it with the Formless Dragon—if the Formless Dragon could freely traverse space, once assisted by the Eye of Magic, Liszt might even grasp the essence of the world.

At the very least, the Eye of Magic should help the Formless Dragon find its way and prevent it from getting lost in the world beyond material reality next time.

“Woo-yi-ya!”

After chewing a stick of Smoked Grass, the Formless Dragon felt slightly excited, cooperating well with Liszt in their communication, continually discussing the training of the Eye of Magic.

It sensed that this particular Dou Qi Secret was crucial for it.

Dragons were no less intelligent than humans; naturally, the Formless Dragon was qualified to discuss skills with Liszt. The two of them stood on the vast marshes discussing into the night, mostly clarifying their thoughts.

“So, Bard, let's continue experimenting with the Eye of Magic!”

“Woo-yi-ya!”

Boom, the Formless Dragon flapped its wings, and together, the two of them once again flew into the sky, flying along the Whirlpool River for the second time. They constantly attempted to deploy the Eye of Magic, and finally, as they reached the middle reaches of the Whirlpool River, Liszt suddenly connected his vision with that of the Formless Dragon through the Eye of Magic.

The next moment, the world turned into a crystalline structure.

Crystalline trees, crystalline rivers, crystalline distant stars. This was the same as what the Formless Dragon saw through its naked eyes, a world composed of crystalline structures. Yet the Eye of Magic still had an effect, causing a minor shift in the crystalline world, and this subtle change made the view profoundly different.

Because there were colors other than crystal white in the view!

Though these colors were not very bright, they made a stark contrast with the crystal white world, and in an instant, Liszt understood the effect of applying the Eye of Magic to the Formless Dragon: “Before, the Formless Dragon’s vision only included crystal white, Superior Magic, and High Magic as visible, but with the assistance of the Eye of Magic, even Low Magic becomes discernible!”

The Formless Dragon’s vision was quite extraordinary, with its Crystal White View’s crystalline structure representing a special dimension’s intuitive manifestation, only Superior Magic, and High Magic could present themselves in their true form.

That made it easy for it to detect magical threats.

Liszt had been discovered hiding in the tunnels, clearly with the assistance of the Crystal White View. Now with the help of the Eye of Magic, the Crystal White View became more fearsome, revealing even Low Magic levels.

“Awesome!”

“Bard, there are quite a few magical plants and animals around the Whirlpool River, and many of them might be Elves. It seems that the task of exploring new islands will have to be carried out by us in the future.” Liszt scanned the surroundings, not rushing to collect those magical crystalline structures.

He had come today only to become more familiar with his skills.

Unless he encountered a Little Minor Elf or a Greater Elf, it wasn’t worth his effort to intervene; a Dragon Knight of his standing certainly shouldn’t stoop for a few Elf Bugs.

During the pioneering process, he’d let the Knight Order search for Elf Bugs, find them if they can, let it be if they can’t. After all, most elves found in the wild were of lesser value, and he preferred those he cultivated himself, such as Elf Bugs from high-value economic crops like Magic Potions and grains.

“Woo-eeya!”

The Formless Dragon, sharing one mind with Liszt, understood his thoughts and flew close to the ground, constantly testing the new Crystal White View.

The Eye of Magic, functioning in tandem with Leo, was called Dragon Eye Trajectory.

After some thought, Liszt named the Eye of Magic functioning with the Formless Dragon the Crystal White Trajectory.

The advantage of the Dragon Eye Trajectory lay in the detailed and clear insight into details, including the trajectories of magic power, all clearly displayed within the Fire Dragon’s field of vision. The Crystal White Trajectory, on the other hand, boasted an advantage in the distinct levels of magic power; it had an effect of simplifying the complex, producing astounding results in a sweep of the whole area.

Most crucially, the Crystal White View barely dimmed at night, avoiding complete darkness.

This meant the Formless Dragon had night-vision capabilities—this was extremely important, as it allowed Liszt to move around freely at night. Plus, with the Formless Dragon able to traverse the boundaries of matter, it was essentially a Dragon Knight assassin made to order. Unpredictable and even more terrifying than a Light Dragon manipulating rays of light.

“Once I and the Formless Dragon perfect the “Formless Dragon Knight-Dragon Dou Qi Manual”, all of the Dragon Knights of other kingdoms will probably have trouble sleeping at night!”

He was not planning to hide the Formless Dragon for too long—Space Gems would be released and sold at exorbitant prices.

Those kingdoms and even empires would definitely know of the existence of Sacred Dragons; there was no need to keep the Formless Dragon overly secretive.

In fact, with three dragons in hand, and Archmage Archy as a powerful ally, once the relocation of his domain was complete, he would directly declare the establishment of his own Kingdom.

Of course, there was no rush for this.

The Flame Islands had only just begun to be explored. He had not even ascertained which continental nation he was facing across the sea; thus, there was no need to rush long-term planning. For now, he would first stabilize his position at Flame Origin, develop Flame Island from inside out, and, on the side, partake in the Pioneer Mandate a few times to snatch some resources from Eagle Kingdom for the development of the Flame Islands.

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After returning to Flame Origin, Liszt dined with a few of his titled followers on a modest meal without alcohol.

After dinner, he returned to his residence to converse with Archy.

They had an in-depth discussion on various space-related topics, such as the Crystal White View of the Formless Dragon and the world beyond material existence.

When the discussion delved deeper, Liszt even summoned the Formless Dragon to act as a translator, facilitating direct communication between Archy and the Formless Dragon—the Formless Dragon had taken a liking to Archy, allowing Liszt to ride it so easily because it hoped for Archy’s assistance.

Lost in the world beyond matter, it had been frightened.

They conversed until midnight.

“Brother, Archy has received a lot of important information from Bard, which is very relevant to the research of the Magic Teleportation Array. It will take a few days to carefully sort it out. Can we postpone our return?”

Liszt nodded, “Yes, the research of the Magic Array is most important.”

Chapter 822: Heading to Red Crab Island

Over the next few days, Liszt almost spent half of each day training with the Formless Dragon. Although he hadn't developed any Dou Qi Manuscript techniques yet, he had mastered the use of Crystal White View and even discovered several Elf Bugs in the nearby forest.

He didn't find any Greater Elves or Little Minor Elves, just six ordinary plant Elf Bugs that were not very economically valuable.

Now that he already possessed hundreds of Elf Bugs, his attention to individual Elf Bugs was very low, but an Elf Bug was still an elf, with potential for enormous value. Who knew if a weed-like Elf Bug might give birth to a variant Magic Potion weed and suddenly increase in value?

So, every single Elf Bug needed to be carefully nurtured.

For this reason, he was already planning to establish a department specifically dedicated to the research, discovery, protection, and nurturing of elves, which would be responsible for providing overall management of the elves in his domain. Magicians were undoubtedly the best suited to lead the research on elves. However, Liszt was continuously fighting against "Magicianization" and did not want magicians to be too deeply involved in the management of the domain.

"Let's simply diminish the role of magicians and promote the Arcanist System. Not only can magicians join the Arcanist System, but knights can as well... The Iron Knight can be considered a research entity, and it is easier to control using the Arcanist System."

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Therefore,

After careful consideration, he decided to take the opportunity of establishing a research and nurturing department for elves to reform the caster system of his territory and officially transition to the Arcanist System.

“The new research institution will be called the Elf Academy. The academy will serve as an integrated research and education institution for arcanists in the domain... The Elf Academy will handle research related to elves, the Magic Academy will be responsible for the essence of Magic Power and studies related to magic, and the Knight Academy will handle the training of knights.”

“There will also be an Agriculture Academy responsible for farming research, a War Academy responsible for intelligence and strategy, and an Equipment Academy responsible for manufacturing Magic Equipment and weapons... as well as the Royal Academy, which will coordinate and guide all academies, report directly to me, and handle research and breeding of dragons.”

Liszt planned to personally serve as the president of the Royal Academy, with Ach as the vice-president and Chris as the secretary-general.

Knight Academy would have him also as president, Elf Academy would have Ach also serve as president, and Chris would still serve as the president of the Magic Academy, with other academies' leadership to be determined later.

As for the main roles within the academies, the Arcanist level would serve as the standard.

The most junior researchers and teachers must at least hold the title of “Arcanist.”

Those responsible for individual research projects or leading a teaching subject must hold the title of “Grand Arcanist.”

To be in charge of an academy, one must hold the title of “Chief Arcanist,” and only Chief Arcanists were qualified to hold positions in the Royal Academy.

To engage in leadership roles at the Royal Academy and handle research concerning dragons, one must hold the title of “Arcane Instructor.”

Without a doubt, both Liszt and Ach held the qualifications for the title of Arcane Instructor, and for now, they were the only two.

He wrote down “Academy-Arcanist Plan” in his notebook.

Liszt didn't immediately announce it but kept it as a concept for now, considering implementing the reforms after establishing his kingdom was officially founded. Currently, his old territories were still accumulating wealth, and the new territories urgently needed development, so haste was not advisable. After all, once reformed, the Magic Guild would inevitably leave.

At this stage, the Magic Guild was still the best way to gather pilgrimage magicians and thus had its purpose.

Only when magicians had adapted to the management of the Magic Guild and begun to transform into researchers would it be the right time for reform.

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However, as Liszt was ambitiously preparing to develop the Flame Islands.

Disastrous news arrived from his domain, swiftly relayed to his desk through the Magic Platform—it was reported that the nobles of the Grand Duchy of Sapphire, Marquis of Red Crab Island, former captain of the Court Fleet, Merlin Taro, had passed away on July 3rd of Sapphire Calendar Year 154, with the funeral scheduled for July 15th.

Today was July 5th.

Li Si Te put down the paper used for recording and sending messages, bracing his hands on the desk, he rubbed his forehead. The good mood of the past few days had receded, and he felt a slight constriction in his heart.

Although he had been mentally prepared for a long time, the Marquis Merlin, in his twilight years, could pass away at any moment.

Yet, when the moment arrived, he still found it hard to face it with calmness, as the person closest to him in this world, other than Ach, had departed.

Indeed, the ties of interest among nobles often outweighed those of familial bonds, but the affection Marquis Merlin held for him, his grandson, still filled Li Si Te's heart with

respect. As a transmigrator, his few interactions with the elderly man were perhaps his most direct experience of familial affection.

This also made him feel closer to the Long Taro Family, far more than to the Tulip Family.

“Philip, inform Earl Cross and Viscount Fox to come to the camp for a meeting.”

“Yes, Your Highness.”

A moment later, Cross·Thorn and Fox arrived together.

“I’ve called you here because I will soon be leaving Flame Island to return to my territory. I leave the development of this area in your hands, with Cross taking the lead and Fox assisting.”

“Rest assured, my lord!” Both men accepted the orders.

“You must quickly finalize the layout of Flame Town. I will be back soon with ten new ships, split half and half between supplies and personnel. Furthermore, Durt Red Apricot has already gathered seven hundred Earth Knights and thirteen hundred Apprentice Knights, along with a large number of serfs, and they are currently en route by ship. Their accommodations must also be arranged.”

“Understood.”

“However, the river passage along Whirlpool River doesn’t need your attention for now; I will take charge of that myself when I return, as there are many powerful Magical Beasts along the way,” Li Si Te added.

As one of Li Si Te’s three earl followers, Durt Red Apricot had previously been sent to gather knights from Iron Hoof City for a major development on Flame Island. Their fleet had no external help and had to travel from Black Horse Island to Flame Island, taking a long time.

But Li Si Te would send Ach to assist, helping the fleet reach Flame Island as quickly as possible.

When the time came, this group of knights would travel up Whirlpool River to Flame Origin and start opening the river passage, laying the foundation for future settlement development.

After giving these instructions.

Li Si Te dismissed the two men and then went directly to the rudimentary laboratory to find Ach busy at work: “Ach, I might need you to put your research experiments on hold.”

“What’s the matter, brother?”

“Marquis Merlin has passed away; I need to return immediately.”

Ach, not much concerned with humans, understood and acknowledged Li Si Te’s feelings for Marquis Merlin, so she nodded gently: “Alright, Ach will organize the experimental data right away.”

Having organized the data, they set off immediately.

Instead of calling forth Little Fire Dragon Leo, he mounted the Formless Dragon Bard and headed towards the coast. Along the way, he allowed Ach to personally experience the feeling of being enveloped by space magic power at the material boundary, deepening her understanding of space magic power, thus better grasping the principle of the Magic Teleportation Array.

They traveled throughout the night, and on the afternoon of July 6th, the two arrived at the shores of Red Crab Island.

They then summoned Little Fire Dragon Leo and started flying towards Long Taro Castle at the center of Red Crab Island.

Chapter 823: Li Si Te’s Protection

At dusk, Little Fire Dragon Leo finally flew to the mountain range where Long Taro Castle was located.

The grand and majestic Long Taro Castle, originally adorned with colorful flowers and flags, now had its flowers removed, and its outer walls were draped with black and white flags.

Numerous carriages were parked in the square in front of Long Taro Castle, likely all followers of Marquis Merlin.

“Roar!”

Little Fire Dragon Leo let out a loud, profound dragon’s roar, signaling the arrival of both him and Liszt at Long Taro Castle. Although each dragon’s voice is unique, the majesty contained in the tone always made people immediately recognize it as a dragon’s voice. Following the dragon’s roar, a large group of nobles quickly emerged from Long Taro Castle.

“Dragon!”

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“It’s a Fire Dragon!”

“Prince Liszt has hurry!”

“Prince Dragon Knight has come to attend Marquis Merlin’s funeral.”

The Mesiro couple and the Meioubao couple, standing among the crowd and witnessing the Fire Dragon’s presence, couldn’t help but feel their sorrow lifted slightly: “It’s Liszt!”

Roland Pinecone and the Melinda couple, following behind the Mesiro couple, revealed involuntary smiles: “Liszt arrived so quickly!”

“Grandfather’s death must have been conveyed, and Liszt must have already been on his way,” Meioubao clenched his fist, feeling a weight lifted off his shoulders with the arrival

of his cousin. Marquis Merlin was the solid pillar of the Long Taro Family, and his fall caused unease within the family.

Now, the arrival of the Fire Dragon signified Liszt's stance—he would keep his promise and become the support for the Long Taro Family.

That was enough!

With Liszt's support, the position of the Long Taro Family within the Grand Duchy of Sapphire would remain stable despite the passing of Marquis Merlin. The Sapphire Family would not harbor inappropriate ambitions, and those originally loyal followers of Marquis Merlin would not dare to entertain any reckless thoughts.

Instead, it was time to prepare to pledge loyalty to Mesiro.

Indeed, that was the case.

Nobles like Sharke Cauliflower and Durant Hyacinth, watching the slowly approaching Fire Dragon and the knight in silver armor barely visible on its back, swiftly extinguished any rising ambitions at this critical moment—who would dare refuse to follow Mesiro, as probably the next day's sun would be difficult to see.

The people of Long Taro Castle were unsettled, but upon the arrival of Fire Dragon Knight Liszt, all was smoothed over.

Meioubao invigorated spirits and commanded the family's knights to quickly clear a large open space in the square for the Fire Dragon to land. The nobles craned their necks, marveling at the formidable and unmatched Fire Dragon, and the noble ladies and young misses accompanying them flashed fiery gazes.

“Roar!”

Leo unleashed another dragon's roar, wantonly projecting his dragon's might, instantly enveloping the entire Long Taro Castle. His heart always harbored an evil dragon's nature, considering all humans, except for Liszt, as mere ants to be easily crushed; the display of dragon's might was just an intimidation.

“Leo, restrain your dragon’s might!” Liszt’s clear voice rose over the trembling crowd oppressed by the dragon’s might, quickly alleviating their embarrassment.

The nobles all showed grateful expressions towards Liszt.

However, they didn’t know that Leo’s release of dragon’s might was permitted by Liszt. As a Dragon Knight, it was necessary for him to let everyone firmly remember the supreme majesty of a Dragon Knight. A baptism by dragon’s might was far more impactful than any number of people he could kill, thus clearly demonstrating the status of a Dragon Knight.

Boom!

Leo landed, shattering the stone slabs of the plaza and causing the ground to tremble.

Liszt, accompanied by Archmage Archy, jumped directly down from Dragon Leo’s back, and it was only then that everyone noticed a delicate female magician beside Liszt— instantly recognizing her identity, realizing that not only had the Dragon Knight himself come, but he had also brought an Archmage.

“Leo, go rest on the mountain.”

Upon hearing this, Leo flapped his wings and soared towards the direction where the sun was setting, leaving behind a ferocious silhouette that shone brilliantly under the last rays of the sunset. The western mountain was the one behind Long Taro Castle, its summit covered with dense forests that Leo could ravage.

At this time, the Mesiro Couple had already brought many nobles towards Liszt, bowing in greeting, “Liszt, my dear nephew, great Dragon Knight, and great Archmage Acherloides, we thank you for your arrival.”

Liszt quickly stepped forward, lifting up the Mesiro Couple, “My uncle and aunt, I immediately rushed back from overseas upon receiving the tragic news, but it’s a pity you didn’t inform me sooner so I could see my grandfather’s face one last time... I never imagined your birthday gathering would turn into a final farewell.”

In May, soon after the Great Sea Battle ended, Liszt had visited Long Taro Castle for Mesiro's birthday.

At that time, Marquis Merlin's health hadn't worsened since New Year's; in fact, due to Princess Angela's pregnancy, Meioubao's promotion to Sky Knight, and Long Taro Family's participation in Liszt's trade plans, his spirits were quite good, and his health showed signs of improvement.

Yet, he still couldn't make it through the year.

"My father tried to harness Dou Qi when an accident occurred, leading his condition to rapidly deteriorate; he didn't survive long enough for me to inform you. Before he passed, he mentioned you several times, regretting he couldn't see the moment you would establish your own nation."

"Alas," Liszt sighed along.

But Meioubao spoke, "Father, Liszt, grandfather said before he left us not to feel sad for him. He was very at ease, all his affairs resolved, leaving for the Knight's glory with a smile."

"That's right, Liszt," said Angela, holding her swollen belly.

"Since that's the case, let's go to the castle to talk more, uncle. First, I would like to pay respects to my grandfather's remains," Liszt said, reining in his grief.

Surrounded by a cluster of nobles, Liszt and Acherloides entered the castle's great hall.

A lavish coffin was placed there.

Several magicians were maintaining the operation of Ice System Magic on the side to prevent Marquis Merlin's body from deteriorating in the summer heat. His eyes were closed, his face pale but peaceful, dressed in the splendid Flack Abaie of a Marquis.

A crystal Cultural Stick lay in his hands placed on his chest, underneath a flag embroidered with the Long Taro Family emblem.

Liszt stood in front of the coffin, pulling out a diary from his bosom that Marquis Merlin had handwritten years ago and given to Liszt as a New Year's gift.

It had greatly benefited his promotion to Sky Knight.

He placed the diary at a corner of the coffin.

He couldn't help but say in a heavy voice, "Grandfather, your gift once spurred me on... now, as a Dragon Knight, I promise you, I will protect the Long Taro Family. The bloodline of the Long Taro Family shall thrive on the seas along with the Flame Family and the Tulip Family."

After speaking, he bowed solemnly.

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Moments later.

In a private study, Mesiro, Roland Pinecone, Meioubao, and Liszt sat in four chairs.

Mesiro spoke directly, "Liszt, thank you for your promise before father's coffin. Father always said you would be a reliable support for the Long Taro Family, and now, the Long Taro Family indeed needs your protection."

"Uncle, and Uncle-in-law Roland, although our families are different, we are kin, bound together by grandfather's blood. As long as I live, your families can look to me for protection, and if you wish, you can also come to develop in my nation."

Mesiro clearly wouldn't give up Red Crab Island, which his family had managed for generations.

But Roland Pinecone seemed tempted, "Liszt, have you found the location to establish your nation?" As a mere Viscount, previously not highly regarded by Marquis Merlin, it

didn't mean he had no aspirations. Now with Liszt becoming a Dragon Knight, his relation as Liszt's uncle-in-law might just be an opportunity.

Chapter 824: Coastal Empty Households

The Chang Yu Family was famous for their shrewdness, and the Marquis of Red Crab Island, Merlin Taro, also prided himself on his astuteness. He did not follow other marquis families in seeking marriages within the same social status.

Instead, he valued the potential of the other party. His eldest son, Mesiro, married the daughter of an earl, whose family was backed by the Iron Knight Family, thus ensuring that the Chang Yu Family would not lack weapons and equipment. His eldest daughter, Melinda, was wed to Roland Pinecone, the son of Viscount Longtail City, who was known at the time as a "genius."

His younger daughter, Melissa, was then married to Viscount William of Tahiti City.

Within a few years after his marriage, William had distinguished himself through his military achievements, was granted the title of Coral Island's Count, and quickly rose to become a Sword Saint, proving the insightful judgment of Marquis Merlin.

However, Roland did not rise on the battlefield as he had expected. Instead, after inheriting his title, Viscount Roland proved to be mediocre, at one point even too afraid to enter battle, and his strength stalled at the level of an Elite Earth Knight.

As such, Roland became a stain on Marquis Merlin's life; for more than twenty years he received no promotion and remained just the Viscount of Longtail City. Although he was filled with resentment, Viscount Roland dared not prove himself on the battlefield, thus he spent over twenty years aimlessly.

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Upon the death of Marquis Merlin, Mesiro, who was set to inherit the marquisate, also disliked his useless brother-in-law.

Thus, Roland had little loyalty towards the Chang Yu Family. Even though he resided on Red Crab Island, he would not visit Long Taro Castle more than a few times a year, possibly even less frequently than Liszt and his siblings.

According to the knightly system of the Legendary Continent, a count must become a Sky Knight to be granted a fief.

Roland had already lost hope for his own title, yet seeing the spirited Fire Dragon Knight Liszt before him, his despondent thoughts stirred once more. Perhaps due to lack of strength, he could not be promoted to an earl, and his two sons were also not particularly talented.

Yet, it seemed easy to secure the status of a Founding Contributor by following Liszt.

Then, with Liszt perhaps leaning a bit more resources his way, the growth of the Pinecone Family was imminent, much better than languishing in Longtail City on Red Crab Island.

Still, he did not immediately make up his mind.

He prepared to listen to what Liszt had to say.

“Uncle, uncle-in-law, cousin, please keep this a secret for me,” Liszt said, setting down his teacup calmly, “I have already found the location for my country’s foundation. It is a vast archipelago, far surpassing the Duchy of Sapphire in area, and I am already at work developing these Flame Islands.”

Roland was immediately taken aback: “An archipelago larger than the Sapphire?”

A fire quickly ignited in his heart. The land area of the Sapphire Archipelago added up to roughly 2 million square kilometers, and to this day, many islands remain undeveloped. The Flame Islands, being twice as large as the Sapphire Archipelago, would have even more undeveloped islands, and one could imagine how many hands Liszt would need for the development.

“The Flame Islands are about twice the size of the Sapphire Archipelago and are very difficult to develop, especially given the shortage of population, which is a serious constraint on the establishment of a nation. Therefore, I plan to plunder population from

the Eagle Kingdom over the next few years, only waiting for my naval fleet to take shape before launching war on my own!”

“Launching war on your own?”

“Yes, while the Eagle Kingdom is preoccupied, I myself will lead the raid, which might very well empty the coastal areas of the Eagle Kingdom.”

Mesiro couldn’t help but sigh: “To empty the coastal areas of the Eagle Kingdom, Liszt, such a huge raid, can the Eagle Kingdom tolerate it?”

“Whether they tolerate it or not,” Liszt suddenly erupted with an uncontrollable passion, bluntly stating, “Uncle, I never fight a battle without assurance—unless the Eagle Kingdom sends all their Dragon Knights to engage me in a dragon slaughter, I have nothing to fear!”

“The Eagle Kingdom has five Dragon Knights!” Mesiro felt that his nephew was getting a bit arrogant.

“But I have more than one dragon,” Liszt said coolly.

“Hmm?”

“Hmm?”

“What?”

Mesiro, Roland, and Meioubao all widened their eyes, “Liszt, this... what do you mean by that?”

Originally planning to keep it a secret, Liszt could not hold back for the moment and decided not to hide it any longer, “Carlo Violet has fallen in battle, and I have acquired the Light Green Gemstone Dragon. I am currently training a Dragon Knight for the Light Green Gemstone Dragon; in addition, I have subdued another dragon on Flame Island, so now I have a total of three dragons.”

Three dragons, plus an Archmage.

The study fell silent at once, and the three Mesiros were completely stunned, for a good while not knowing what to say. Eventually, it was the young Meioubao who, shaking, managed to ask, “Liszt, my dear cousin, I shouldn’t doubt you as a Dragon Knight, but... do you really have three dragons?”

“Deceiving you would be of no benefit, would it... Wait here for a moment, I’ll go get something.” Saying this, Liszt stood up and left the study, heading toward the bedroom set up for him at Long Taro Castle—but this was just for show. In fact, he had already taken out several pieces of light green gemstone from his Space Ring halfway there.

The Formless Dragon needed to remain a secret for the time being.

The revelation of the existence of the Sacred Dragon had to wait until it was strong enough to defend itself, otherwise it would attract too much enmity.

Starting with revealing the Light Green Gemstone Dragon, it might not be long before the news reached the Sapphire Duke, then slowly spread to the Eagle Kingdom and the Steel Ridge Kingdom. But he was not afraid of the news leaking; the deterrent power of the three dragons was more than enough to allow Liszt to traverse the seas freely.

Moreover, the light green gems were bound to be sold sooner or later to exchange for resources, and the Eagle Kingdom would naturally come to know of it—then it would be seen whether they dared to come and claim the Light Green Gemstone Dragon back.

If a dragon-slaying battle really did happen, it wasn’t a big deal.

After all, the Flame Islands were destitute and barren. With the Formless Dragon to conceal their presence and Archy to control the seawater, if they could not win the battle, they could simply flee. Once the Eagle Kingdom’s Dragon Knights left, they could rebuild the Flame Islands. But by that time, enmity would be sown, and there would be no peace for the Eagle Kingdom, whose Dragon Knights would need to be wary of assassination.

All in all, Liszt was not afraid!

He was now leaving the study to give his uncle and uncle-in-law time to digest the news.

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Back in the study.

Meioubao was already agitated, scratching his head, “Father, uncle-in-law, Liszt has three dragons!”

Roland swallowed and said, “Mesiro, do you believe this could be true, three dragons, three dragons, it’s almost unimaginable!”

Mesiro forced himself to remain calm and pondered, “Liszt is a person of steady character, he wouldn’t lie, and the disappearance of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon... On the open sea, the only one likely to find that dragon would be Archmage Acherloides... As for the other dragon, with him and Lord Archmage Acherloides cooperating, it wouldn’t be difficult to conquer!”

Acherloides’s reputation exceeded Liszt’s by far.

After all, it had been hundreds of years since an Archmage had been born, and during the dragon-slaying battle, the spectacle of Acherloides’s magic had a greater impact than that of the melee-focused Dragon Knights, leaving a deep impression on everyone. One could say that since that battle, when speaking of the true master of the Sea of Azure Waves, the first person everyone thought of was Acherloides.

Dragon Knights could not control water, but an Archmage controlled the sea as though it were but clay in their hands.

After such an analysis by Mesiro, both Roland and Meioubao were convinced that Liszt indeed had three dragons. With such a formidable force, comprising three dragons and an Archmage, they had more than enough power to establish a maritime kingdom.

Roland clenched his fist on the spot.

Breathing heavily, he said, “Mesiro, I plan to follow Liszt and develop on the Flame Islands; do you have any objection?”

Mesiro narrowed his eyes, “I wish prosperity for the Pinecone Family on the Flame Islands!”

Roland let out a sigh of relief, “Thank you!”

Chapter 825: There Can Only Be One Overlord

A few light green gems were placed on the table by Liszt.

“This is the light green gem produced by the Light Green Gemstone Dragon for me. If the Dragon Knights of the Eagle Kingdom dare to start another dragon-slaying war with me, they might just end up giving me another dragon.”

Even if he didn’t bring out the light green gems, Mesiro and the other two believed that he had three dragons. But obviously the gems brought a greater impact.

“Light Green Gemstone Dragon, huh? To think that Eagle Kingdom went through all that effort to wage a dragon-slaying war, only to gain nothing and even lost a dragon and a Dragon Knight!” Mesiro looked at Liszt, his estimation of his nephew soaring without limits, “You alone really could stand against a whole country!”

“This is just the beginning. Maritime nations can never match the development potential of continental countries. I will sooner or later march towards the Legendary Continent and establish a vast kingdom that spans both sea and land!” Liszt was also recklessly boasting, since it cost nothing to dream big.

“The territory of the Legendary Continent should have been occupied by various kingdoms by now; I’m afraid it will be very difficult for you to find new land to establish a country on.” Mesiro thought for a while, but still felt he should advise Liszt to keep a lower profile.

...

However, Meioubao said excitedly, “Liszt, if you can establish a kingdom that spans both sea and land, I will follow you when the time comes!”

“Sure thing, cousin. Coming to my country, you’ll surely not be worse off than in the Duchy of Sapphire. Even now, the Flame Islands have much more fertile islands than Red Crab Island.”

It would be good news if the Long Taro Family were willing to give up Red Crab Island and defect to him.

The Flame Islands were too large, and what he lacked most now was population. Even with his own followers and subjects, as well as the followers and subjects of the Tulip Family, he feared they might not even reach a population of eight hundred thousand. Eight hundred thousand people developing an archipelago of nearly five million square kilometers was simply frightening.

The average land area per person in the Flame Islands reached more than 6.25 square kilometers, whereas in China, the average land area per person was only 0.0054 square kilometers.

That’s why he had been opening channels, welcoming any Knights who came to join him, as long as they could bring in population.

But after all, the Long Taro Family had been rooted in Red Crab Island for many years, and it was not easy to operate and manage their industry, plus there was the relationship with Little Princess Angela; it would be hard to let go of Sapphire.

Mesiro would not easily make a commitment.

Only Roland Pinecone had decided to follow Liszt and head to Flame Island to seek fortune. Liszt immediately stated, “Uncle Roland, if the Pinecone Family is willing to head to Flame Island for development, then I can promise an Earldom, and the title you hold now, cousin Rolie, can be inherited by you.”

Viscount Roland and Aunt Melinda had two sons, Russell and Rolie.

Russell could inherit his father's title, while Rolie would have to earn his own accomplishments. Now Liszt not only promised the Pinecone Family an Earldom but also added a Viscountship.

The temptation was too great.

Viscount Roland was thrilled, even feeling a tinge of fear, as the title of Earl was the dream he dared not entertain, "Liszt, I... am just an Elite Earth Knight, am I eligible for promotion to Earl?"

"Normally, only a Sky Knight is eligible for promotion to Earl, but in my country I make the rules. Uncle can be promoted to Earl. If, after three generations, the Pinecone Family still can't produce a new Sky Knight heir, then in accordance with knightly tradition, it will be demoted to Viscount."

Liszt appreciated this system of demoting those with insufficient strength — he had no intention of supporting a bunch of worthless followers who enjoyed the resources of their lands, yet were too mediocre to even win any military honors.

Roland immediately replied, "Don't worry. Although I have no hope to become a Sky Knight in this lifetime, and Rolie is not talented in that regard, the Pinecone Family will spare no resources to train a third-generation Sky Knight successor!"

"In that case, once my grandfather's funeral is over, Uncle Roland, please start preparing to set off for Flame Island. The sooner you start participating in the development of Flame Island, the more justified I will be in bestowing the title of Earl upon you."

"Alright!"

After discussing this topic, Meioubao couldn't contain his curiosity and asked, "Liszt, since you have three dragons already, what kind of dragon is the other one?"

Liszt smiled faintly, "Let's keep it a secret for now."

...

After staying a night at Long Taro Castle, Liszt set off to leave the next day. The funeral was scheduled for July 15, and it was now only the 7th, leaving eight days' time. He had merely come in advance to show his face, letting others know his stance on protecting the Long Taro Family. Thus, he took his leave from Mesiro and others, and with Ach, he returned to Black Horse Island. He had planned to have a chat with the Marquis of Bull Tail, but the Marquis had gone to the Bull Tail Domain, and the Levis Couple had gone with him. Therefore, he decided to rest and recuperate on Black Horse Island.

"Your Highness, as per your instructions, Black Horse Island has started organizing various industries. This is the list of industries scheduled for short, medium, and long-term relocation," Administrative Officer Isaiah from Giant Algae City brought Liszt a list.

It meticulously recorded all the industries of the Flame Territory.

Each industry was marked with an approximate date for potential migration; as Flame Island was gradually developed, these industries could be steadily transferred. What would be left behind was a deserted territory to be returned to the Duchy of Sapphire—but the transfer of industries was not urgent.

It would be good to take advantage of the Duchy of Sapphire for a few years first.

As for Liszt, he had actually decided not to return Black Horse Island—he wanted to wait and see if, with the help of the Formless Dragon, Ach could develop the Magic Teleportation Array soon.

Once the Magic Teleportation Array was researched and established, a teleportation array between Black Horse Island and Flame Island could be created, thus integrating the Sapphire Archipelago with the Flame Islands. Liszt was planning to establish his kingdom, and could recruit the Sapphire Family as followers, swearing allegiance and paying tribute to him.

"There needs only to be one master of the seas, and that's me. Duke Andrew's life is drawing to a close, and Anthony will definitely not be able to ride the Sapphire Dragon. It's feasible to take him on as a little brother."

Originally, Anthony wanted to take Liszt as his little brother, but now that Liszt was Dragon Riding, he thought of taking Anthony as his little brother.

He intended to embrace the four seas and dominate the blue waters; the Sapphire was a thorn that must be pulled out.

He rested for the night.

Liszt did not linger long in Thorn Castle. Alongside Ach, he led ten framed ships sailing toward the Whirlpool Archipelago. A day later, they arrived at the Great Whirlpool and continued as before, smoothly navigating the ten framed ships through to Flame Island's Whirlpool Mountain to support the construction of Flame Town.

On July 11, he and Ach continued their journey across the sea. This time, the aim was to find Durt Red Apricot's fleet, which was navigating the vast seas. Ach controlled a Water Tornado to help increase the speed of the fleet. However, due to the large number of ships, she couldn't provide much speed. It took three full days to escort the fleet to the Whirlpool Archipelago. The fleet would leave behind a group of Knights and Serfs to build Whirlpool Town.

Another part continued sailing, not through the Great Whirlpool, but along the nautical route towards the Flame Islands, eventually landing at the mouth of Whirlpool River.

Settlements were to be established along Whirlpool River, culminating in their joining with Flame Town.

After sending the fleet to the Whirlpool Archipelago, Liszt took Ach and left again, returning to Red Crab Island to attend Marquis Merlin's funeral.

Just as they arrived at Red Crab Island, Ach took out the Magic Platform to contact the magicians at Flame Town, inquiring about the progress of several experiments. Unexpectedly, they received a Magic Platform message from Black Horse Island, revealing that the shipbuilders at the port town's dockyard had launched a trial sail of a new type of Longitudinal Sailboat.

Kostor and his companions were busy figuring out the nautical data of the Longitudinal Sailboat.

He couldn't help but summon the Smoke Mission to check on the progress and, indeed, found that the mission was complete.

“Mission completed, reward: new Longitudinal Sailboat.”

Chapter 826: Construction Outline

“Task: Matters of varying urgency, construction with its particular order, as the future ruler of a nation, you should carefully consider the overall planning of the Flame Islands, Whirlpool Archipelago, and other territories, instead of hammering away impulsively. Please draft an outline for the construction of the Flame Kingdom. Reward: A creative magician.”

Li Si Te shook his head to dissipate the Smoke Serpent Script.

But the content was already memorized in his mind. As Leo was flying him and Ach to Long Taro Castle, Li Si Te took advantage of this rare moment of leisure to mull over the Smoke Mission.

The reward for “a creative magician” presented no immediate comment, not knowing which magician it referred to, nor the nature of the creativity; it would all become clear upon the task’s completion.

What made him emotionally ashamed was the content of the task.

It was a request for him to draft a detailed construction outline for the Flame Kingdom and was a reprimand of his previous approach as “impulsive” and “eager for quick success”.

...

“Is this a reflection of my own subconscious, or is it a reflection after hearing others whisper behind my back?”

It was most likely his own reflection, for ever since he became a Dragon Knight, no one dared to contradict anything he said. His followers had all become echoers; whatever he said was right. Even if someone felt uneasy, they dared not speak out loud.

After all, the radiance of a Dragon Knight was too dazzling to look at directly.

“Though I have admittedly become a bit conceited recently, isn’t this a bit too harsh on my leadership abilities? I believe my development of the Flame Islands has been quite prudent... Forget it, I’m open to advice; let’s have the followers discuss the construction outline.”

Two heads are better than one.

Even with a modern world’s perspective, Li Si Te was inevitably prone to oversight.

Although he felt a sense of pride inside, he hadn’t become so arrogant as to lose all sense. He immediately instructed Ach to use the Magic Platform to send a message to the officials in his territories: “Have them discuss in private how to develop the Flame Islands, Whirlpool Archipelago, and other islands, and then have all the senior officials submit a construction outline.”

His plan was to use these outlines to compile and refine his own, thus perfecting the construction outline and fulfilling the arrangement of the Smoke Mission.

Moving past this matter.

By evening, Long Taro Castle appeared within sight. The plaza in front of the castle was filled with numerous carriages, all belonging to nobles who had come to offer their condolences. Li Si Te also noticed Marquis of Bull Tail’s mount, the huge Obsidian Stympthalian Bird – the Black Albatross – leisurely strolling halfway up the hillside.

Upon seeing the ferocious Fire Dragon flying in the distance, the Obsidian Stympthalian Bird immediately recalled those difficult times, squeezed its legs, and lay motionless on the ground.

The reason was none other than Li Si Te allowing Leo to unleash increasingly fierce intimations – since igniting the eruption of Dodo Island Volcano, Leo’s Dragon Breath temperature soared, and his Dragon Might significantly heightened, no longer inferior to that of mature dragons like the Sapphire Dragon or the Light Green Gemstone Dragon.

Only after everyone sensed the Dragon Might of the Fire Dragon did Li Si Te purposefully admonish Leo to restrain his Dragon Might.

Under the escort of a large group of nobles who had come out of Long Taro Castle, he stepped into the castle.

First, he arranged for the reclusive Ach to settle in the fourth-floor study, before returning to the living room on the second floor where the nobles had gathered to receive their flattery and obsequiousness – while Li Si Te would eventually leave the Duchy of Sapphire, everyone knew the importance of establishing a good relationship with a Dragon Knight.

“Prince Li Si Te.”

Crown Prince Anthony, holding a cup of green tea, found a corner to chat with Li Si Te.

Regarding Anthony as a future junior, Li Si Te was relatively cordial, “How is the Grand Duke doing?”

“My father is in good health, and he also asked me to extend his regards to you.”

“Please thank the Grand Duke for his regards.”

“Father asked me to tell you that if Flame Territory has any needs, just speak up. The Sapphire Family will do their utmost to help you establish your kingdom.”

“I do have some needs that I hope the Grand Duke can assist with.”

“Please speak.”

“Let’s set it aside for now, and I will communicate in detail with the Grand Duke once I am fully prepared.” What Liszt wanted to discuss was the sales channel for light green gems. He currently lacked the capability to establish a sales channel for gemstones and hoped to utilize the Sapphire Family’s channels for selling them.

However, the news of the Light Green Gemstone Dragon had not yet leaked, so there was no rush to bring it up.

“Alright then.”

“However, regarding the trade of sea salt, white paper, and glass, I hope to change the profit-sharing method.”

“How would Your Highness like to change it?”

“I wish to purchase serfs from Steel Ridge, using the profits from trade to pay for the principal of the serf trade. Then, with the help of the Sapphire Family’s channels, I would transport the serfs back to Iron Hoof City.”

“The price of serfs from the Steel Ridge Kingdom is far higher than those from Eagle Kingdom...”

“True, they are quite expensive, costing about two to three times more than those from Eagle Kingdom when brought into the Duchy of Sapphire. But that’s okay, I will cover the cost. The Sapphire Family just needs to provide the channel,” Liszt said nonchalantly, exuding an aura of not being short of money.

Anthony nodded, “Of course, that’s no problem. The Sapphire Family has always maintained a channel for serfs from the Steel Ridge Kingdom... However, why doesn’t Your Highness use the serfs from Eagle Kingdom?”

In his view, the serfs of Eagle Kingdom were cheap, and since any serf would do, it made sense to use the cheaper ones.

But Liszt didn’t think so. The majority of serfs and knights in his territory came from Eagle Kingdom, which over time could lead to a certain leaning. Although he wasn’t concerned about the loyalty of his followers, it would be easy for the Eagle Kingdom to interfere and cause internal strife.

That’s why he wanted to incorporate a group of serfs from the Steel Ridge Kingdom to dilute the influence of the Eagle Kingdom.

However, when it came to speaking, he changed his reasoning: “Of course, I will raid the Eagle Kingdom, but the population of the coastal hinterlands is far from meeting my needs, so I need to open up the serf market of Steel Ridge in advance.”

“The population of the coastal hinterlands in the Eagle Kingdom is above ten million, aren’t they enough?”

“I might raid about one-tenth of that, but not everyone will wait there for me to raid at will. Once the Eagle Kingdom catches on, they will surely migrate the landlords and their subjects inland... I don’t want to just make small gains each year like the Pioneer Mandates.”

The Pioneer Mandates of the Duchy of Sapphire were an opportunity to take advantage of the annual war between Steel Ridge and Bear Eagle, sipping a bit of the spoils.

Liszt, on the other hand, intended to powerfully tear off chunks of flesh with his three dragons at hand. After a few such raids, the Eagle Kingdom would either launch a campaign to slay the dragons or abandon the coastal hinterlands.

They certainly wouldn’t allow him to tear off chunks of flesh each year at his leisure.

It was a pity that Flame Island was destitute and couldn’t sustain a massive influx of population; otherwise, Liszt might consider solving the problem once and for all and capture the entire population of the coastal hinterland—after all, the Flame Kingdom needed to thrive by drawing blood from the Legendary Continent.

He was not the patient type.

A thousand years is too long, seize the day.

Upon hearing this, Anthony became clearly embarrassed, “Prince Liszt, if you raid the Eagle Kingdom wildly, won’t the Sapphire’s annual Pioneer Mandates become unsustainable?”

“That is a problem.” Liszt frowned and pondered for a moment before replying, “How about this, every year during the Pioneer Mandates, our two houses could coordinate and make a big move, delving deep into the inland of Eagle Kingdom for raiding... After all, what can Eagle Kingdom do against the combined might of you and me!”

Chapter 827: Copying Steel Ridge

“I need to report back to my father,” Anthony said to Liszt’s proposal without giving any answer. He needed to discuss it carefully with the Sapphire Duke before he could reply.

Liszt nodded, “It’s just a suggestion. There’s still some time before this year’s Pioneer Mandate period ends. The Grand Duke can take his time to think about it... I personally am very willing to facilitate such cooperation. When the Eagle Kingdom is in decline, it’s time to employ thunderous methods to hasten its fall.”

“Your Highness, rest assured. Once Marquis Merlin’s funeral is over, I will immediately return to Azure Sky Peak Palace and convey all of Your Highness’s words to my father.”

“Very good.” Liszt picked up his teacup and took a sip of the somewhat bitter tea—it was from the green tea trees exclusively owned by Black Horse Island, which after long-term cultivation, now had a very high yield.

Because this Dragon Knight drank tea every day, he swiftly influenced the customs of the Sapphire Archipelago; the Nobles began buying batches of tea leaves from Black Horse Island to brew and taste. Even the Sapphire Family ordered a considerable amount of tea from Black Horse Island. It was said that the Grand Duke was quite fond of tea, which further intensified the tea drinking habits of the Sapphires.

Of course, Liszt didn’t care how many people genuinely liked drinking tea.

...

He originally just wanted to drink tea himself. Even now, when a pound of tea leaves was fried up to a few Gold Coins, he wasn’t interested in the slight profits from tea leaves.

Salt, white paper, and glass remained the three pillars of the Flame Territory’s trade.

There was no drinking at the dinner, just a simple meal. This was suggested by Liszt, as he believed it was inappropriate to drink alcohol during the period of Marquis Merlin's funeral—in fact, the Sapphires didn't have the rule forbidding alcohol during mourning, but Liszt personally felt that drinking created too lively an atmosphere, which was unsuitable.

When the Dragon Knight made a request, the Nobles naturally didn't dare to raise the subject again.

So after a quick dinner, everyone went back to rest, and it was then that Liszt found the opportunity to speak alone with the Marquis of Bull Tail: "Father, let's talk in the study."

"Indeed, I have many questions for you as well."

"Do I get to be part of it?" Levis asked eagerly, keen to be involved in the family's major affairs.

Liszt nodded, "Of course, brother can join. But first, make sure the surroundings of the study are quiet enough so our conversation isn't overheard."

Inside the study, Ach remained absorbed in her reading and writing, merely greeting Li Weiliam before immersing herself back into her own world—busy with the research of the Magic Teleportation Array, leaving other experiments aside, striving to complete the Teleportation Array as soon as possible.

Liszt took the red wine and glasses from the Servant's hands, signaling for them to come over.

Once the servant had closed the door and Levis had gone out to make a round, instructing his Retainers to ensure no one disturbed them, he returned to the study.

Taking the glass of red wine that Liszt handed to him, "There's no one outside now, Liszt, so whatever it is, you can say now."

Liszt sat on a chair and started asking, "Father, has uncle already mentioned it to you?"

Li Weiliam nodded seriously, “Mesiro told me... about the three dragons. Because of this news, I haven’t slept all night.” He had arrived at Long Taro Castle yesterday, and then Mesiro started talking about it; at first, he thought the other party was jesting.

It took him a long time to reluctantly accept the reality, but he still harbored doubts.

Levis felt the same way.

“I do indeed have three dragons. That’s the confidence behind my plan to directly establish a Kingdom. The Flame Kingdom would rise upon the sea. I believe no Kingdom would dare to wage a war to slay the dragons against the Flame Kingdom... As for the location of the Flame Kingdom, it has already been chosen—the Flame Islands.”

Without waiting for Li Weiliam and Levis to react, Liszt took out a carefully drawn map from his chest.

He unfolded it and said, “This is the map of the Flame Islands, about seven thousand kilometers from the Sapphire Archipelago. It’s a bit far, but not too big of an obstacle. Father, please look, the largest island here is Flame Island, which will be the direct territory of my Flame Family.”

Ignoring his shock at the sight of the three dragons, Li Weiliam immediately followed Liszt’s pointing finger towards the map and asked, “How big is this island?”

“After surveying, it’s about three million square kilometers.”

“Three million? Isn’t that larger than the entire Sapphire Archipelago combined?”

“Yes,” Liszt said with a proud smile. Finding the Flame Islands was indeed an achievement worth boasting about. “Flame Island is the territory of the Flame Family, so the second-largest island in the Flame Islands, this one here, I have named it Tulip Island as the fief I will grant to the Tulip Family.”

“How big is it?” Levis inquired eagerly.

“About four hundred fifty thousand square kilometers, one and a half times the size of Iron Hoof Island.”

“Four hundred fifty thousand!” Levis’s eyes gleamed with excitement, his interest in the island, which seemed much smaller than Flame Island, ignited in an instant. “Liszt, when do you plan to found a nation, when will you develop the Flame Islands?”

“What do you think, Father?” Liszt decided to first seek Li Weiliam’s opinion.

Stroking his chin and forcing himself to stay calm, the Marquis of Bull Tail scrutinized the map before slowly speaking, “My idea is to develop first and found a nation afterward. The Flame Islands are still an unknown environment, and the resources on the islands have yet to be explored; it’s not guaranteed they are suitable for habitation.”

He paused, then continued, “Besides, the Sapphire Archipelago is far from the Flame Islands. Without adequate preparation, the resources spent on travel could well be wasted... Our family’s holdings are still weak. Rashly venturing to the Flame Islands to cultivate the land could be more loss than gain.”

“Father’s thoughts align with mine. However, we still need to proceed with the development by sending a batch of knights to pioneer the land. I am recruiting knights from Iron Hoof City, and you could recruit knights too, Father. Any knights that Sapphire has rejected can be recruited and sent to pioneer the Flame Islands.”

As long as Earth Knights consume more meat, most people can be promoted. Apprentice Knights are even more abundant.

Yet, very few knights truly make a name for themselves—most of them eventually have to put down their spears, sell their warhorses, and return to farming or menial labor. With Liszt’s sudden rise, all knights could see the opportunities it presented, which would surely drive the ambitious to risk their lives for it.

No one would be forced; they would be clearly informed of both the dangers and benefits of pioneering. The rest would depend on the knights’ own volition.

Li Weiliam nodded and said, “That’s also feasible. Iron Hoof Island lacks everything but knights. With the downfall of the Bull Family, many knights have been forced to dismount and farm.”

“Right, Father, although I will focus on developing the deserted islands of the Flame Islands for the next few years and am in no rush to establish a nation, the Court’s structure for the Flame Kingdom should still be determined sooner rather than later. I wonder if there is anything Father can teach me?” Liszt asked.

The political system under the knight system is vastly different from the national systems on Earth.

Firstly, as a feudal society, landlords are the supreme rulers of their own domains, dealing with all matters within their boundaries except for paying taxes to their superiors. Even the real Royal Court mainly manages the King’s own domain and coordinates the subordinate landlords.

Before conferring the title of Marquis of Bull Tail, Liszt held the position of Court Equerry.

This position may seem like that of a servant, but in reality, the noble roles within the Court are mostly honorary positions—Steward of the Pantry, Minister of the Inner Court, Cupbearer, Equerry... There are no roles like Minister of Finance or Minister of Military Affairs.

The main administrative roles within the King’s domain are held by minor Nobles who act as vassals, with cities and towns having their own counselors and Administrative Officers for management.

Wars are entrusted to the Knight Order—except for specially trained elite knights, most knights are self-sufficient and require no concern from the Landlord.

The Knight Commander is usually chosen from among the Nobles, responsible for organizing the Kingdom’s disordered knights. Marquis Merlin, before he retired, had served as the captain of the Court Fleet, equivalent to the position of a land-based Knight Commander. The large Knight Orders in each Pioneer Mandate are typically led by a Marquis.

Liszt, who participated in the previous two Pioneer Mandates as well as the Battle of Iron Hoof Island, fought under the name of Coral Island Knights but was still under the command of the larger Knight Order that directed the battle.

After some contemplation, Li Weiliam quickly replied, “Simply copy the system of the Steel Ridge Kingdom.”

Chapter 828: Knight Riding By

He couldn’t obtain any useful advice from the Marquis of Bull Tail.

Li Si Te’s father had his vision confined by the knightly system, with his worldview formed and solidified, unable to see any need for improvement.

It was still the same old thing common on the Legendary Continent—the King managed the King’s domains, Nobles managed the Nobles’ domains. They fought together when there was a war, divided the spoils when dirty work was done, afterward each returning to their own homes, to their own mothers. The King was not really a King but was essentially just the big brother in charge.

This system was undoubtedly very outdated, yet somehow it suited the current productive forces.

After the Marquis of Bull Tail and his son left, Liszt leaned back in his chair, still contemplating the issue. In the initial period after transmigrating, filled with ambition, he had thought about changing the social system—from feudal decentralization to centralization, concentrating all power in the hands of the monarch.

However, reforming the system wasn’t something that could happen overnight.

...

If China hadn’t had the awe-inspiring vision and enterprise of “stirring up the remaining vigor of the six generations and grasping the long staff to govern within the universe” by Emperor Qin Shi Huang, who caused heads to roll, centralization would have been equally difficult. Moreover, in Liszt’s current thinking, whether it be decentralization or centralization, both were outdated feudal systems.

It really wasn’t clear whether decentralization was more comfortable or centralization was—the Dragon Rearing Family at the top of the pyramid, or a family that reared several dragons, would live comfortably no matter what.

“A better system, one of people ruling together with me, is not something I can do; arbitrarily shaking my own power, I cannot yet achieve such fearless spirit,” he murmured, shaking his head. Having tasted the sweetness of power, how could one give up that flavor, to act with noble character.

After a moment, he made a decision.

“If there’s no drive for reform for the time being, then I’ll just copy the Steel Ridge Kingdom’s system and continue maintaining the feudal system... Once the Flame Kingdom develops and grows strong, and my personal strength reaches its peak, then if I want to centralize power, I could freely lead a reform with an invincible momentum. I believe no one would dare to stop me.”

However, as his gaze fell upon the map of the Flame Islands on the table, he suddenly laughed at himself, feeling that he had always been needlessly worrying.

The Flame Islands spread over more than five million square kilometers, of which Flame Island itself accounted for more than three million square kilometers. This meant that even if he distributed all the remaining islands, his territory as King would still be vast, a third the size of China, enough for the family to thrive for generations.

Whether decentralization or centralization, it was all the same in the end.

Once Flame Island developed under his guidance and its productive forces flourished abundantly, even if Liszt didn’t actively reform the system, the system would evolve on its own. Even if he continued with feudal grants, those Nobles who saw the wealth of Flame Island might even cry and beg to stay on Flame Island as officials.

Furthermore,

If one day he could contract with the Immortal Dragon and gain immortality...

The next day.

On July 15th, the funeral of Marquis Merlin took place amidst a soft drizzle. There was no overly grand ceremony, no loud gongs or drums, just many Nobles riding in carriages, following the procession of Knights who escorted the coffin, heading to the Long Taro Family's cemetery.

The grave had already been dug, the epitaph too had been erected.

It was a moderately sized rectangular tombstone, with "Marquis of Red Crab Island – Merlin Taro," "Born April 18th, in the year 71 of Glory," "Died July 3rd, in the year 154 of Honor" written in Serpent Script. Birth was referred to as Glory and death as Honor; the epitaph was simple, without even a mention of who erected the tombstone.

However, there was a line of small text at the bottom.

"Regarding life, regarding death, bestow a cold glance; the Knight rides past."

This was the epitaph Marquis Merlin had thought of for himself long ago. Before he rested in peace, he had already ordered the tombstone to be carved and placed it above the soil that would soon cover his resting place.

With a Tulip in hand, Liszt stood in front of the tombstone, allowing the rain to fall on his Flack Abaieye attire, soaking his clothes. Contemplating the past of Marquis Merlin, even though he had been dead for over ten days, his emotions remained bleak. If nothing unexpected happened, he too would see this day, becoming bones and dust alongside the earth.

He once thought that he did not fear death, but at this moment, he craved even more to contract with the Immortal Dragon.

Watching the casket of Marquis Merlin being buried into the earth, his desire only intensified—he absolutely did not wish to be buried into the ground one day.

The entire cemetery was very quiet, all the nobles silent, merely quietly contemplating and praying silently. After the servants of the cemetery had packed the soil and placed pots upon pots of flowers, an elderly noble present gently coughed, he was Marquis Merlin's distant cousin, Memi Taro.

Despite his mere barony, his age was sufficiently great, so he was invited by the Mesiro Couple to preside over the funeral.

Once the elderly noble caught everyone's attention, he spoke slowly, "Marquis of Red Crab Island, the pillar of the Long Taro Family, Merlin Taro lies here in eternal rest... The funeral is now complete, I now ask the guests to proceed in turn around the grave, offer flowers, and bid a final farewell to Merlin Taro."

Flowers are a beautiful symbol, many nobles use it as their surname, and offering flowers to the deceased is one of the few significant parts of a funeral.

As the highest-ranking Dragon Knights and Archmages, Liszt and Ach stepped forward together, gently placing the tulip flowers in front of the tombstone.

The Mesiro Couple and the Meioubao Couple stood beside the grave, faces etched with grief, and bowed slightly to thank the two men. Liszt and Ach bowed in return, then walked around the grave before departing from the cemetery under the guidance of the servants.

Following closely behind was a procession of noble guests, each offering flowers before leaving the cemetery.

Thus, the funeral of Marquis Merlin was completed simply.

The light rain continued to drizzle down.

Liszt declined the offer of a Retainer Knight to hold an umbrella for him, instead taking the umbrella to hold himself, walking slowly toward Long Taro Castle alongside Ach, stepping on wet cobblestones. He didn't walk too fast, and the nobles following, including Anthony, could only proceed slowly.

No one dared to interrupt, allowing Liszt and Ach ample space for a private conversation.

The handsome Dragon Knight had a trace of melancholy on his face, "If I can't obtain the covenant method from the Dragon Domain LandLord, I might end up lying in the dark soil like grandfather in a few decades."

Ach wrinkled her delicate nose, “But Ach can live for many more years.”

“Then live life well, and protect my family.”

“I don’t want to do that, Ach wants to stay with brother, I don’t want to be separated.”

“Life and death are predestined, wealth and honor are in heaven, people inevitably experience moments of joy and sorrow, parting and reunion, much like the moon in the sky that waxes and wanes, ceaselessly continuing,” Liszt said with emotion, even though he was determined to contract with an Immortal Dragon, even if he couldn’t find an Immortal Dragon he would contract with another.

But who could guarantee a successful contract, so many kings died without achieving a successful contract.

So far on the Legendary Continent, there are rumors that the Emperor of the Neverfall Empire has been reigning for more than two hundred years, clearly he is a Dragon Domain LandLord.

However, it’s hard to discern the truth of such news, as the Neverfall Empire is so far from the Duchy of Sapphire, almost without any interaction.

Of course, as long as there’s a glimmer of hope, Liszt would strive for it.

If it came to that, he would ride the Formless Dragon straight into the imperial palace of the Neverfall Empire to have a chat with that Emperor about the contract with a Dragon Domain LandLord.

In the end, who, given the chance at eternal life, would want to die?

Ach didn’t know Liszt’s thoughts, but she said seriously, “Brother, rest assured, Ach will figure out the contract method of the Dragon Domain LandLord, so that brother can live for hundreds of years, until the point where we both no longer wish to continue.”

Liszt smiled, “Good, I look forward to it!”

Chapter 829: Five-Year Plan

Marquis Merlin’s funeral ended, and Liszt did not stay long at Long Taro Castle. The next day, he returned to Black Horse Island with Ach.

Compared to other nobles who needed to sail slowly, he traveled at the speed of sound aboard Ach’s shell, crisscrossing the Sapphire Archipelago as if darting around the second ring road of a city. Upon returning to his territory, he first mounted the Landwalker bird Loki and patrolled the area. He then found the increasingly well-fed Rainbow Whale Rose and took a dip in the sea.

Now, in the midst of the sweltering summer heat, swimming in the sea was incredibly refreshing.

The Lightning Dragon Turtle, raised by Ach, had become the guardian beast of Black Horse Island and spent half of each day lying on the beach near Giant Algae Town.

Then, enjoying the loads of delicious dried fish brought by the servants from Thorn Castle.

It also wasn’t completely idle; as a Thunder Attribute Super Dragon Beast, its body naturally condensed High Thunder Magic, creating a dense, natural cultivation arena rich in Thunder Magic Power. Many Thunder Attribute knights from the territory cultivated around it.

...

These knights were all young, and they were the reservists of the “Burning Knights Group” that Liszt cultivated for himself.

The Sapphire Duke had the famous Blueblood Knight Order, and as his direct troop, Liszt naturally could not be without his own direct troop. Over time, as the Burning Knights Group continued to grow and expand, it would gradually develop into a noble merit group like the Blue Blood Alliance.

Protecting the vast business empire of the Flame Family from generation to generation.

“The Black Blood Hybrid Horses are doing well in breeding. The mixed breeds can now initially equip the local Knight Order, and the number of Black Blood Purebred Horses has grown from a few dozen to over two hundred. Once these foals grow up and we continuously improve their breed, they’ll certainly develop into Dragon Breed Horses just like the Blue Blood Treasure Horses.”

The Black Blood Treasure Horses were slightly smaller than the Blue Blood Treasure Horses. Although both were Dragon Breed Horses, they were inferior in quality in all aspects.

However, under Liszt’s “Eugenics and Scientific Horse Breeding” policy, it was only a matter of time before stronger Black Blood Treasure Horses were developed to equip the Burning Knights Group.

“It’s a pity that we’ve been unable to breed a new productive female Fierce Earth Dog, and there’s no end in sight for the formation of the Blizzard Knights Group; Little Yellow, Little Red, Little Purple don’t have mates, and the Flame Dragon Bird colony is difficult to develop—forming the Royal Knight Squad seems like a luxury... In fact, even the Cultivation System for Fire Paladins has not yet been ironed out.”

The Burning Knights Group is a collective term, containing ordinary knights as well as elite knights.

Just as there are elite Ashen Hawk Knights within the Blueblood Knight Order, the Burning Knights Group would also have the elite Blizzard Knights and even the elite amongst the elites, the Royal Knight Squad. The Blizzard Knights were planned to use Blizzard Beasts as mounts, while the Royal Knight Squad was intended to mount the Flame Dragon Birds.

Regrettably, while the cultivation principles of the Fire Paladin are basically clear, the specific details still need to be refined, and coordination with Leo also requires exploration.

Liszt himself felt he lacked the intellectual capacity to fully refine it, and Ach had no time to worry about this experiment either, so it had been shelved for now.

“It’s still too shallow a foundation; achieving success all at once is very hard.” Liszt watched the Lightning Dragon Turtle sunbathing on the nearby beach and sighed softly.

Just as the Smoke Mission had said, his personality was indeed filled with an exaggerated “do big things quickly.”

But some things just can’t be rushed.

“The Blizzard Beasts cannot breed, it’s difficult to form the Flame Dragon Birds, and it seems there’s no hope for the Lightning Dragon Turtle to become a tool for pulling ships... The only happy news is that the Super Dragon Beast is greatly beneficial to the knights’ cultivation, with the progress of these Thunder Attribute knights training around the Lightning Dragon Turtle clearly visible.”

Once Little Yellow, Little Red, and Little Purple grew up, they could also provide cultivation sites for Fire Attribute knights.

Of course, actually, cultivating near Fire Dragon Leo would yield even better results, but the dragon’s nobility would never allow insignificant ants to clamor around it.

Drawing back his gaze, Liszt stroked the Rainbow Whale Rose beneath him and gently remarked, “Good mounts are really hard to find. Landwalker bird Loki and Rainbow Whale Rose don’t have similar breeds; there’s no way to breed...It’s easier to find and train some Super Dragon Beasts to follow.”

Thus, he remembered the clues about Super Dragon Beasts he had learned from Kenley Truth.

The Earth Attribute Golden Mountain Goat is raised by the Steel Ridge Royal Family, so evidently, it is quite difficult to obtain; there is a type of Sub-dragon called Gallant Eagle, raised by a Duke’s family in Steel Ridge that once birthed a Dragon Knight, but the actual creature has never been seen; the most likely to be obtained is the Unicorn.

Within the Pegasus Great Forest, there are advanced Dragon Beasts known as Pegasus, and it is said that within the Pegasus herd, Unicorns have been spotted.

“Pegasus are Wind Attribute advanced Dragon Beasts. If the Unicorn is similar to the Thunder Attribute Dragon Turtle and Dragon Turtle in terms of species relationship, then it should be a Wind Attribute Super Dragon Beast... According to the ‘Magical Beast Encyclopedia’ naming convention, it should be called Storm Pegasus, which more suitably matches its status.”

Whether it is the Storm Pegasus or the Unicorn.

Li Si Te had already decided that once he found the time, he would go to the Pegasus Great Forest with Ach to search for them.

...

The results of patrolling the domain were not bad.

He obtained three Elf Bugs, specifically the Little Wheat Bug, Hemp Rope Vine Bug, and Tomato Bug, in addition to the previously discovered Barley Bug and Corn Bug by the serfs. The domain had continually produced five high-economic-value Elf Bugs recently, which was quite gratifying.

Big data proved.

Scientific farming greatly promotes the cultivation of Elf Bugs!

With this discovery, and the long-term farming methods explored by the domain, it is foreseeable that the Flame Kingdom will welcome a continuous explosion of elves, and the national power will skyrocket by geometric multiples.

After inspecting the domain.

After handling the accumulated official duties.

Staying for a few days for good rest at Thorn Castle, Li Si Te soon gathered the construction outlines written by his senior officials and looked them over carefully.

Discard the dross and select the essence, then integrate the strengths of various sources to write his own “Flame Country’s Zeroth Five-Year Construction Outline.”

As to why it is the “zeroth five years,” it is because he plans to complete the establishment of the country within these five years; since it is not yet established, it cannot be the “first five years.” In short, it was just Li Si Te’s personal quirk flaring, or perhaps a twitch in his brain.

The “Outline” in summary is a sixteen-character policy.

“Iron Hooves Black Horse, continue development, Flame Whirlwind, fully develop; Serf Trade, Knights pioneer, Infrastructure, Industry Shift.”

Specifically, it was divided into several developmental steps... This was a detailed and solid construction outline, considering needs from all aspects, which would guide the establishment of the Flame Kingdom from a high vantage. As long as it was strictly implemented, the country would inevitably be successfully established within five years.

When the “Outline” was transcribed, the Smoke Mission was also completed.

“Mission completed, reward awarded to the creative Magician Inuit Truth.”

“Inuit Truth? I have heard this name before; just two days ago, while inspecting the docks, a magician blended into the sailing team, apparently, a young magician aspiring to great voyages.” Li Si Te quickly found out which magician was the reward of the Smoke Mission.

The day after he returned to his domain, Kostor and others returned from testing the new Longitudinal Sailboat. After the sailing test, detailed data on the Longitudinal Sailboat was obtained. In the aspect he most cared about, speed, its advantage was not as significant as Liszt had imagined, especially when sailing downwind, the Longitudinal Sailboat was actually quite difficult to control.

However, when sailing upwind, the advantages of the Longitudinal Sailboat’s speed were perfectly displayed; unless it was directly facing headwind, the Longitudinal Sailboat could sail by relying on the sea wind—of course, in real operation, when the wind was too strong or the headwind too direct, it still was hard to sail.

Li Si Te was not very satisfied with the performance of the Longitudinal Sailboat; he had originally thought it could replace the Transverse Sailboat, but now it seemed, it could not replace it at all.

Just then, the young magician named Inuit boldly suggested, “Your Highness, why not combine longitudinal and transverse sails... Moreover, the sail is too flimsy; I suggest using hardwood to support the sail, allowing the wind to strike the sail better and fully utilize the pushing force.”

Chapter 830: The Power of Steam

Inuit’s remarks reminded Liszt that both cross and longitudinal sails were types of sails, and a big ship could have two or three masts; so why not hang both cross and longitudinal sails at the same time?

With a fair wind, raise the cross sails and it would surge forward; against the wind, raise the longitudinal sails for serpentine maneuvering.

This would essentially allow the sailboat to move freely at sea at all times, greatly shortening the voyage time. Moreover, Liszt seemed to recall that during Earth’s Age of Exploration, many sailboats had triangular longitudinal sails at the bow and stern, with cross sails in the middle.

It was upon hearing Inuit’s suggestion that Liszt immediately ordered the shipbuilders in the dockyard to diligently research mixed sailboats.

However, regarding Inuit’s suggestion to use wood to fix the sails, since it was dismissed by several veteran shipbuilders as impractical at the time, Liszt did not pay much attention to it.

“Now it seems, I need to have a good chat with this creative magician who has received approval from the Smoke Mission and is involved with the Power of Destiny. This person must be a talented individual.”

...

The Power of Destiny represented by the Smoke Mission was highly mysterious and enigmatic, and so far Liszt had not figured out its origin.

But it could not be denied that those chosen by the Smoke Mission always had some extraordinary and unique aspects. To put it plainly, these people were somewhat the “children of destiny”, surrounded by a “protagonist’s halo”... Of course, their halo, no matter how strong, could not compare to Liszt’s “cheat.”

Emily had an exceptional talent for Dou Qi, Lucy and Ruth were outstanding in magical aptitude, Paris involved the Light Magic Swordsman... Ach was an exceedingly rare Sea Serpent who had become an Archmage as a Sea Serpent.

Inuit’s talents were still unclear.

Liszt needed to pay serious attention.

Soon, Inuit·Truth was brought over by the Retainer Knights; he was not a conventional magician—the Magic Cloak seemed to have been modified by him into a bodysuit: “Your Highness, did you call for me?”

“Inuit, do you like sailing very much?” Liszt gestured for him to take a seat, then casually asked.

“Yes, Your Highness, I grew up by the sea and have always longed for the profound blue ocean.”

Inuit’s details, already laid out at Liszt’s hand, had come directly from the Magic Guild—each magician provided comprehensive identification information upon joining, eventually receiving an identity card similar to an ID card, one for every citizen of Black Horse Island.

Inuit was a Sapphire Person, but a magician from the outer islands who had come to Black Horse Island following his teacher.

His teacher was merely a common magician, currently studying Natural Magic under Grand Magician Lars·Truth, which included Druid farming and transformation. He himself

had little interest in delving into deeply theoretical magical content, instead, he was passionate about the business of sailing.

Liszt tapped the table, asking, “Regarding the improvement of sailboats, do you have any other inspiration?”

Excitedly, Inuit replied, “Your Highness, I’ve been studying sailboats for a long time and have a whole bunch of designs I want to implement. I’ve discussed them with the shipbuilders in the dockyard before, but they’re too rigid, sticking to their outdated shipbuilding techniques and completely failing to understand my designs!”

“Then tell me about them now.”

“Yes, Your Highness!”

Once he started, Inuit couldn’t stop, spilling out all his designs pertaining to sails, masts, rigging, and even the structure of the ship. Many of these ideas were indeed imaginative, to the point that even Liszt found some hard to grasp.

Some designs, in Liszt’s view, were simply absurd.

For instance, Inuit thought the work of taking in the sails was very cumbersome and heavy, so he simply proposed designing foldable masts. This way, during a storm, the masts could fold down to either side and also serve as support poles for the ship’s body, maintaining the ship’s stability on the high seas, and making sure it never sank.

This idea was quite interesting in strict terms, but the mast itself is one of the most important components of a sailboat, and like the dragon bone, high-quality ironwood is needed to make the mast tough and prevent it from breaking.

A foldable mast could be the first to break if a storm hit. Plus, sails are heavy, and raising the masts again after folding would definitely be more exhausting than raising sails. Not to mention the challenge of ensuring the mast’s stability when being raised or folded.

Overall, it was unreliable.

Most of Inuit's designs seemed unreliable.

However, from his creative designs, Liszt discovered something intriguing—Inuit had surprisingly proposed the idea of using a huge rotating wheel to propel ships forward.

That was essentially the design of a “steamship”!

On Earth, the era of sailing ships was replaced by steamships, gradually turning sailing into a competitive sport.

“Have you thought about how much power it would take to rotate such a huge wheel and that it couldn't possibly be turned by human strength alone?” Liszt asked with interest.

Inuit seemed to have anticipated this discussion, “Your Highness, although human power is insufficient to turn such a large wheel, magic power can. We can use a magic array to drive the wheel.”

“Using a magic array to drive it?” That seemed like a good solution, but Liszt was not satisfied. “Magic arrays are indeed versatile and driving a wheel isn't impossible. However, manufacturing and operating costs of magic arrays are huge, making them unsuitable for ships.”

He had considered ideas of combining magic and technology long ago. Yet, with the current constriction of the magic web, it was hard for magic arrays to draw magic power from the magic web; they would need to consume the magic power inherent to the materials of the magic array itself. Maintaining such a system was enormously expensive.

And this world had no gemstones or similar items for storing magic power.

Even a small magic platform required regular replacement of its magic runes to function. Communication was costly, let alone driving a huge wheel.

“This...” Inuit turned embarrassed immediately. As a magician, he was well aware of the value of magic materials. His ideas were indeed ingenious, and he took pride in them. But by his design, a single magic array could cost as much as several three-masted sailing ships.

Including maintenance materials for the magic array, such a ship would likely operate at a loss for every trade mission.

Only a fool would design such a thing.

Seeing Inuit's embarrassed and flushed face, Liszt did not show disappointment. Instead, he valued Inuit not only because of his involvement in the Smoke Mission but also because he had ideas—wanting to develop technology, it's not the impracticality of ideas that one should fear, but the lack of ideas.

“Inuit, magic power is difficult to apply in ordinary use, but that doesn't mean there is no alternative power to magic. There is a power I call steam that you could explore further... Besides, some of your creative ideas on sailing ships—I can't judge their value, but I can involve you in the design of new sailing ships. Would you like that?”

Inuit responded immediately, “Thank you, Your Highness, for your acknowledgment. I would love to participate in designing new sailing ships!”

Personally designing a ship that could sail the great seas was Inuit's dream, but he still had his doubts, “Your Highness, what do you mean by the power of steam?”

“Go back and boil a kettle of water, and you will understand the power of steam,” Liszt said mysteriously.

In fact, he didn't know much about the steam engine, which triggered the Industrial Revolution, other than that it utilized coal, oil, and other raw materials to burn and drive pistons to power machinery.

“Boil water? I will go back and do it right away!”

Inuit made his quick leave.

Watching his retreating figure, Liszt shook his head, doubting that steam engines could spark an Industrial Revolution in this world. The explanation was simple—up till now,

there were no recorded uses of coal, petroleum, or other fossil fuels. Without these fuels, burning wood wouldn't provide much power.

The scarcity of metals would also severely restrict the production of steam engines.

Of course, steam engines weren't completely devoid of potential, for a simple reason—Liszt had a Fire Dragon!

Once the Little Fire Dragon matured, releasing Fire Dragon Overmagic at will, there would be a continuous supply of the Magic Little Fire Dragon to serve as fuel.

Then, he could raid a few more iron mines on the Legendary Continent.

Steamships might indeed become reality!